

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

SEVERE WEATHER April 28 2008

SITUATION REPORT # 10

1100 Hours May 7, 2008

The next Situation Report will be Friday, May 9, 2008 at 1100 hours.

SUMMARY

In the afternoon hours of April 28 a storm system moving across the Commonwealth generated rain, wind and tornadoes. The National Weather Service (NWS) updated their count of confirmed tornadoes to a total of 10: 2 EF0 (James City and Gloucester/Mathews counties), 7 EF1 (City of Colonial Heights and counties of Isle of Wight, Brunswick, Surry, Mathews, Greensville and Halifax) and 1 EF3 (City of Suffolk). Multiple injuries reported but no storm related deaths reported. Visual graphics are available at: [Suffolk radar indicated tornado](#); [Brunswick radar indicated tornado](#); [NWS 28 April Tornado Event](#)

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The VEOC has transitioned to Recovery Operations with normal staffing and continues to monitor recovery operations. Recovery Operations is being coordinated by VDEM Recovery Staff at the Arboretum Complex.

State of Emergency: At 1855 hours 28 April, Governor Kaine declared a state of emergency for the severe weather that impacted the Commonwealth. Governor Kaine visited Suffolk on 29 April. [Executive Order #65 \(2008\)](#)

Federal Declaration: No declaration has been requested at this time. The ERT-A Team is on site at the VEOC including Public Assistance and Individual Assistance staff from the Region III Disaster Assistance Division. Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance contact will be working in both Colonial Heights and Suffolk.

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared:
City of Suffolk declared a local emergency at 1625 hours 28 April.
Colonial Heights declared a local emergency at 1555 hours 28 April.
Isle of Wight declared a local emergency at 0830 hours 29 April.
Brunswick County declared a local emergency at 0930 hours 29 April.

Local Emergency Operations Center Activated:
City of Norfolk 28 April at 1650 Hours on behalf of City of Suffolk. City of Norfolk closed at 1918 hours as City of Suffolk communications were restored.
City of Suffolk closed at 2000 hours, 5 May.

WEATHER

Forecast: Wednesday, 7 May: Heightened Fire Weather Risk across Southwest, West Central, Northwest and Northern VA; mostly sunny; high temps low to mid 80's; winds 10-15 MPH with gusts up to 25 MPH in Southwest VA; . Wednesday night: Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms across the central, northern and western areas of the state; low temps upper 50's to low 60's; winds 10-20 MPH. Thursday, 8 May: There is a chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon; some of these storms could be severe with the main threat being damaging winds and large hail and an isolated tornado; high temps mid 70's to mid 80's; winds 10-15 MPH with gusts up to 20 MPH.

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison: Region 1 Coordinator Wills assisted National Weather Service with flyovers of impacted localities on 29 April. Region 3 Coordinator Cocker completed damage assessment and

storm survey with Halifax County Emergency Management and NWS Blacksburg on 29 April. Region 2 Coordinator Sterling assisted City of Suffolk and Region 5 Coordinator Twigg on 29 April. Region 5 Coordinator Twigg demobilized on 2 May and is available to assist City of Suffolk if needed.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services:

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Western Tidewater Health District (WTHD) staff at Suffolk EOC demobilized on 5 May at 2000 hrs. Portsmouth Medical Reserve Corp activated and providing one Registered Nurse to each of three locations to assist Health Department nurses with Tetanus boosters/vaccinations. Virginia Beach Medical Reserve Corp has one Licensed Practical Nurse assisting American Red Cross with community outreach/case working. Currently planning for “Community Clean Up” scheduled for 10 May.

Health Department has added fliers on “Safety Tips for Working Outdoors” to materials available at the Disaster Assistance Center. Flyer includes topics such as how to avoid sunburn, prevent dehydration and heat/sun related fatigue. It also details the difference between heat stroke, heat exhaustion and heat cramps as well as instructions to seek medical attention if symptoms are noticed.

Tetanus vaccinations and boosters are being provided to all residents and first responders at Suffolk Health Department and Suffolk Disaster Response Center.

VDH reported patient treatment and admissions as of 1030 hours 30 April:

City of Colonial Heights – approximately 20 treated and released

Sentara Obici Hospital – 70 patients treated, 3 admitted – current condition “improving”

BonSecours Maryview – 3 patients treated and released

BonSecours Harborview Health Center – 3 treated, 1 admitted – current condition “improving”

Southampton Memorial Hospital – 2 treated and released

Approximately 122 patients treated by local Emergency Medical Service, physicians’ offices and emergent care centers

Virginia Department of Mental Health (DMHMRSAS)

Western Tidewater Community Services Board (CSB) has over 70 staff deployed to support the City of Suffolk, Suffolk Schools, Department of Social Services, Salvation Army and local churches. CSB staff has been deployed since 30 April to Hill Point, Burnett’s Mill, Driver, Saddler Heights and the Suffolk Disaster Assistance Center in support of mental health issues. CSB staff has provided crisis counseling and has arranged groups for families and children to assist with normalization efforts and residual emotional concerns. Those undergoing crisis support are also eligible for pre-paid phones and Wal-Mart cards. CSB has made their fleet of vehicles and staff available to transport individuals and goods. CSB staff deployment rotations will continue throughout the weeks ahead and begin to become more targeted to individuals and families expressing trauma symptoms.

ESF 13 – Public Safety and Security:

Virginia State Police (VSP)

All VSP troopers and resources that were on special assignment in Suffolk supporting the impacted jurisdictions demobilized on 7 May. .

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 14 – Long-term Community Recovery

Initial Damage Assessment Reports:

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Public</u>
Colonial Heights, City of	\$2,000,000	\$0
Halifax County	\$500,000	\$0
Isle of Wight County	\$184,000	\$0
Portsmouth	\$ 60,000	\$0

Suffolk, City of	\$28,405,508	\$2,740,919
Brunswick County	\$650,000	\$0
James City County	\$217,000	\$0
Surry County	\$ 74,000	\$0
Total	\$32,040,508	\$2,740,919

Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment was completed on 1 May in the City of Suffolk. State and federal representatives also surveyed the City of Suffolk in regard to Public Assistance - public property, debris clearance and emergency response. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments were completed in the City of Colonial Heights and Brunswick County on 2 May. Results of the Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments that were conducted May 1-2 were evaluated by VDEM and FEMA. The Commonwealth did not meet the threshold for federal disaster assistance as most properties impacted had insurance. ***The Disaster Assistance Center hours of operation are 10 AM to 6 PM through Friday, 9 May with representatives from the American Red Cross, United Way, Social Services, USAA, Suffolk City Police and Verizon. The bulk of the visits were related to permits and licensing, with a handful related to United Way, USAA and Red Cross. It is anticipated that there will be more interest in insurance guidance and legal assistance as homeowners work through the insurance claim process. There will be several attorneys available at the Town Hall meeting to answer any questions people may have. United Way and Social Services will be re-contacting individuals who registered at the site to develop additional information in regard to their needs. From this follow-up assessment, the city will be developing their strategy to allocate donated funds. At this time, it appears that disbursement of funds will not begin until sometime next week.*** Requested guidance from Department of Accounts in regard to Section 44-146.17 of the Code of Virginia (Powers and duties of the Governor), item 10, which states that the Governor may direct the Comptroller of the Commonwealth to issue warrants not to exceed \$2,500 per month, up to three calendar months, to an employee of a state or local public safety agency responding to a disaster that has suffered an extreme personal or family hardship in the affected area. ***VDEM is continuing to coordinate with state and federal housing agencies as well as the Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters to assist with unmet needs.***

The City of Suffolk submitted their Notice of Interest to seek assistance under the state Public Assistance program for eligible costs. The city also submitted preliminary cost estimates associated with their response and recovery operations to VDEM.

ESF 17 – Volunteers and Donations

All food operations are being coordinated through Operation Blessing and distributed through Salvation Army and American Red Cross. The Salvation Army has 3 canteens operational. The Convoy of Hope deployed teams to Suffolk to assist with debris removal.

The United Way of South Hampton Roads is coordinating all volunteer efforts regarding the tornado response. The Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia delivered two truckloads of food to Suffolk.

ESF 6 – Mass Care

The American Red Cross reports that approximately 5,021 meals have been prepared and distributed throughout the event. A total of 157 Red Cross workers of which 142 were volunteers, have been involved in the relief effort to date. Red Cross is providing housing on a one-to-one basis. A service center has been set up in Brunswick County to begin casework. Currently working with Mercy Chefs and Operations Blessing and surrounding churches. The Red Cross Service Center is located at the Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church located at 3488 Godwin Blvd. Suffolk, VA. Those wishing to make donations please see the Virginia Department of Emergency Management website at www.vaemergency.com, "How You Can Help."

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support VDEM coordinated 12 resource requests. Nine requests were completed and 3 requests were cancelled. All resource requests are closed at this time. All localities have been given access to the State Emergency Services contract.

PLANNING SECTION

ESF 5 – Situation Unit Preparing Situational Reports, monitoring WebEOC entries and maintaining situational awareness

Mapping/GIS Unit **Demobilized 6 May**

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

City of Suffolk: ***National Weather Service (NWS) Wakefield confirmed an EF 3 tornado impacted the City of Suffolk on 28 April.*** EOC operations closed at 2000 hours, 5 May, and a daily staff meeting will be held at the City Manager's Office to review operations and the need to continue recovery operations and return to normal operations. ***All local Mutual Aid resources have been released and returned to their respective localities. A curfew for the Burnett's Mill area remains in effect from 2300-0700 hrs, curfew for the other impacted areas has been rescinded and restrictions on access to impacted areas has been lifted.*** Debris removal operations in Driver and Saddler Heights are completed and debris removal operations in Burnett's Mill and Hill Point are at 60% with all storm debris expected to be removed by mid-week. An estimated 10,700 cubic yards of debris has been removed to date. ***Fire/EMS operations have returned to normal operations with the exception of one fire truck and one EMS unit assigned to the Burnett's Mill area assisting with recovery efforts. The Disaster Assistance Center located at Suffolk Recreation Center at Kings Fork Middle School will remain operational 10 AM to 6 PM through Friday, 9 May.*** A follow up Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 8 May 1900 hrs, at Kings Fork Middle School, and will discuss transitioning services back to individual departments, provide an update on funds received and distributed, status report of promises made at first Town Hall meeting, stress management, Community Cleanup Day and a question and answer period. Approximately 633 volunteers have participated in the response and recovery efforts, donating 3,671 hours. Suffolk Police Department has established a Valuables Recovery Center for personal belongings to be dropped off and residents can reclaim them. A Community Cleanup Day is scheduled for Saturday, 10 May. Individual projects will be matched with United Way volunteers.

Suffolk Animal Control provided a Hotline information number for missing/found animals (Suffolk Dispatch at 757-409-7729). An emergency trailer with 24 trained staff is co-located with Humane Society of the United States at Suffolk Animal Control with 60 cages for missing/found animals. All animals will be "microchip" scanned.

York County: ***The Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical System Strike Team along with the Southside Logistics Cache (City of Norfolk) and the Peninsula Logistics Cache (York County) and the Peninsula Communications Cache (York County) were demobilized 30 April.***

City of Chesapeake: ***All Chesapeake Fire/EMS units to include HazMat 5 demobilized at 2000 hrs, 5 May.***

City of Colonial Heights: ***NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF 1 tornado caused the major damage reported in and around Southpark Mall.***

Isle of Wight County: ***NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF 1 tornado impacted the Carrsville area*** damaging fourteen homes.

Halifax County: ***NWS Blacksburg confirmed an EF1 tornado*** caused major damage to two homes, minor damage to one home and slight damage to three homes in the ***Virgilina area***. All homes were insured. Four sheds were observed to have major damage or be destroyed.

Brunswick County: *NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF1 tornado touched down south of Lawrenceville with winds between 86-100 MPH and damaged 14 homes. .*

City of Portsmouth: *The 9 members of the Portsmouth Amateur Radio-ES (PARES) assisting the City of Suffolk demobilized 30 April.*

City of Newport News: *The 40 police officers assisting the City of Suffolk demobilized 5 May.*

James City County: *NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF 0 tornado touched down 6 miles northwest of Jamestown impacting 10 homes impacted, with one residence uninhabitable.*

Surry County: *NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF 1 tornado destroyed 1 mobile home destroyed in Claremont area.*

Greensville County: *NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF 1 tornado touched in the Bryant's Corner area causing damage to some outbuildings.*

Mathews County: *NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF 1 tornado touched in the Bohannon area blowing the roof off 1 house, overturning a boat and vehicle.*

Gloucester/Mathews County: *NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF 0 tornado touched in the Belroi area damaging some agricultural buildings and part of a commercial building. NWS Wakefield indicated that this tornado had been previously described and listed as 2 tornadoes; however, further review of damage photos and radar data suggests that this was a single tornado.*

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